

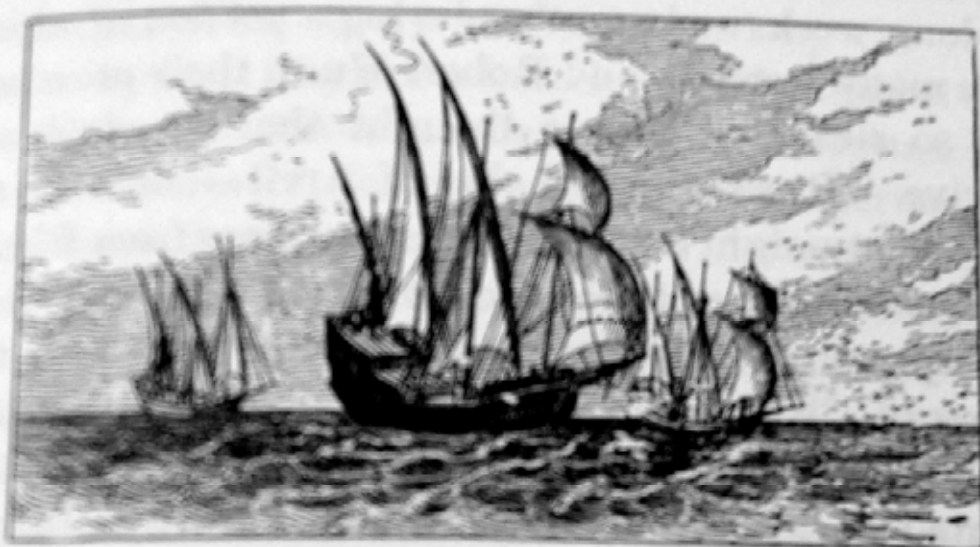
the ships anchored at London. Three small vessels, that would not now be thought worthy to attempt the passage of the Atlantic, composed the fleet. They were the "Susan Constant" of one hundred and twenty tons burden, commanded by Captain Christopher Newport, and carrying seventy-one persons; the "God-speed" of forty tons, Captain Bartholomew Gonnold, and having on board fifty-two persons, and the "Discovery," a pinnace of twenty tons, Captain John Radcliffe, bearing twenty-one persons. The number of persons on board aggregated one hundred and thirty-four, of whom twenty-nine composed the ships' crews and the remaining one hundred and five were colonists.

**5. The Departure from England.**—On Saturday, December 20th, 1606, the ships dropped down the Thames river, but they were buffeted by contrary winds and, January 1st, 1606-7, they cast anchor in the Downs. Here, for six weeks, continuous storms detained them in sight of England. But at length the tempest abated. Again the sails were spread and the little fleet stood out to sea. Gentle winds wafted it onward and the shores of England faded from view, and the blue hills of Ireland disappeared in the distance. The ships were steered to the southwest, and, in time, reached the Canary Islands. There they took in a supply of water, and five days later, sailed for San Domingo.

**6. The Colonists at Sea.**—Winds drove the fleet onward over the billows and on February 24th, 1606-7,\* it cast anchor at San Domingo. April the

\*This manner of the double dating of events occurring between the 1st day of January and the 25th day of March, in all the years

10th ensuing, the voyage was continued, and the ships were steered northward in hope of finding the long-sought haven. On April 14th they crossed the Tropic



THE FLEET ON THE OCEAN.

of Cancer and on the 21st, at 5 o'clock in the evening, they were overtaken by a terrific storm of wind, rain and thunder, but the ships out-rode it, and on April 26th, the watch descried land to the westward.

Between 1582 and 1752, is observed by writers of that period. Until the last named year, the 25th of March was regarded as New Year's day, or the first day of the year, and since that time the 1st day of January has been so regarded. England and her American colonies adopted the latter method in 1752, in compliance with an act of Parliament, which provided that the calendar according to which the year begins on the 25th of March, should not be used after the 31st day of December, 1751, and the 1st day of January ensuing should be called and known as the first day of the year 1752, and each succeeding year, throughout the British Dominions. From this it will be seen that the method of double dating have used, is very necessary, for if we regard March 25th as the beginning of the year, then the ships reached San Domingo February 23d, 1499; but if we consider the year as beginning on the 1st day of January, then the ships anchored at San Domingo February 23d, 1497.

7. **The Fleet on the Coast of Virginia.**—Because of unfavorable winds, these founders of the oldest American State were tempest-tossed on the restless ocean for long weeks and months, during a portion of which time many were ill, and Robert Hunt, their preacher, was so sick that it was thought that he could not survive. It was the 26th day of April—one hundred and twenty-eight days after the departure from Blackwall—when they entered the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, and upon the capes on either side, they bestowed the names of Charles and Henry, in honor of the sons of King James, the first of whom was afterward the unfortunate Charles I., and the second is known to history as Prince Henry. The ships, after entering the bay, lay at anchor for several days at Old Point Comfort.



RUINS OF JAMESTOWN.

8. **The Founding of Jamestown.**—On May 12th the sails were again unfurled and the ships were steered



into the mouth of a magnificent river, which the natives called Powhatan, but to which the Colonists gave the name of James, in honor of their beloved sovereign. The voyage was continued up the river to a point about fifty miles from its mouth, and here on May 13th, 1607, these cavaliers went on shore and laid the foundation of Jamestown, the oldest permanent English settlement in America. This was thirteen years and six months before any other English colony was established in what is now the United States.

**9. Settlement of Massachusetts.**—From Massachusetts came some of the pioneer settlers of West Virginia. This was the second American State permanently settled by the English. One stormy day in December, 1620, a little ship named the "Mayflower" hove in sight off the bleak shore of Cape Cod, on the coast of Massachusetts. On board the ship was a band of devoted Christian people, who, more than two months before, had left England, and during all that time had been buffeted by wind and wave on the broad Atlantic; but the voyage was now past, and, at last, when all had almost given way to despair, these heart-sick men and women reached the long-looked-for harbor, and upon the 21st of this mid-winter month, after having spent some time in exploring, the weary voyagers landed at Plymouth Harbor, which they named after the place they had left behind them in their native land. Such was the beginning of New England.

**10. Colonization of Maryland.**—The "Ark" and the "Dove"—names emblematic of safety and peace

—were two historic ships. They bore the first colonists to Lord Baltimore's province of Maryland, a State now so intimately connected with our own. It was October, 1633, when the settlers, two hundred in number, went on board and the ships sailed from Gravesend, near the mouth of the Thames river. They touched at Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, and November 22d, steered for the Azores, and then for the West Indies. Reaching Barbadoes, the vessels were detained for some time and did not reach Chesapeake bay until the 27th day of February, 1633-4. At Point Comfort both vessels received supplies. Thence they proceeded slowly up the bay, and on the 27th of March—thirty days after passing the capes of Virginia—amid the booming of cannon from the ships, the immigrants went on shore and founded St. Marys, the oldest settlement in Maryland. Here had landed the men who were to make this State famous as the home of liberty-loving people. Many early West Virginia settlers came from Maryland.

**11.—The First Colonists of South Carolina.**—South Carolina soldiers served in West Virginia during the Indian wars, and the history of the people of that State is, therefore, connected with the early annals of our own. The colonists, two hundred in number, destined for South Carolina, left England in 1669. The ships that conveyed them, were the "Carolina," the "Port Royal," and the sloop "Albemarle." Leaving England, the little fleet put in at Kinsale, Ireland, for additional emigrants. Then the sails were spread, and, the "Carolina," with



ninety-three passengers on board, in the lead, the pilots steered for the West Indies. The ocean was crossed, but the "Albemarle" went down before a hurricane at Barbadoes, and the "Port Royal" met a similar fate among the Bahamas. A sloop was purchased at Barbadoes to convey the rescued passengers, but she was parted from the "Carolina" by a storm on the high seas and was driven into a port at the Bermudas. There, too, the "Carolina" cast anchor, but both vessels sailed on the 26th of February, 1669-70, and early in March, reached Seewee, now Charleston, and thence proceeded to Port Royal Harbor. Here they remained until April, when the voyage was continued to Kiawah, now Ashley River, where the emigrants went ashore and laid the foundation of Charleston, the first English settlement in South Carolina.

**12. The Land of William Penn.**—Many of the people of West Virginia now trace their ancestry back a century or more to Pennsylvania homes. The name of the ship that bore William Penn to Pennsylvania was the "Welcome," and the account of her voyage is a sad recital. When out from port but a few days, the smallpox appeared among the passengers, and before land was sighted, a third of them were dead. The "Welcome" was tempest-tossed, but she outrode the storm, passed the capes at the entrance of Delaware bay, and four days later, October 27th, 1682, cast anchor where New Castle now stands.

**13. The Coming of the Founders of Georgia.**—Another historic ship left England in 1732. It was

the "Anne," of two hundred tons burden, Captain Thomas, and having on board two hundred colonists, men, women and children, destined as the founders of Oglethorpe's province of Georgia. The "Anne" left the English coast November 17th, 1732, and on January 13th, 1732-3, reached Charleston Harbor on the coast of South Carolina. Thence passing on to the Savannah river, the colonists went ashore on its right bank and began building Savannah, the oldest city in Georgia. These were the founders of the last one of the thirteen original colonies; that is, those existing at the beginning of the Revolution.

**14. The Beginning of the States was the Beginning of the Nation.**—From these small beginnings great states have developed and with others, they have united and formed the great Nation—the United States of America, of which the State of West Virginia is one. From these States on the Atlantic coast, which we have mentioned, many people came to settle in West Virginia; especially is this true of Pennsylvania and Maryland. But the great mass of those who first found homes in our State came from that part of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge, and that the story of the two Virginias, inseparable as it is, may be studied connectedly, we must return to that little Colony planted on the banks of the James river in 1607; for around it as a central point is grouped the early history of the Virginias, as well as much of our national history.

**15. The Character of the Virginia Colonists.**—We have seen how the first settlers came to Virginia.



The early annals of the Colony abound with evidence that they were a devoted Christian people, who saw and recognized not only the guiding hand of Providence in all their affairs, but, in the wilderness, were firm believers in the teachings of Christianity. The principal mover of the organization of the Virginia Company of London was Richard Hackluyt, himself a minister and prebendary of Westminster. The Company gave to the colonists, when ready to sail, a series of orders, the last of which was as follows: "Lastly and chiefly, the way to prosper and achieve good success is to make yourselves all of one mind, for the good of your country, and your own, and to serve and fear God, the Giver of all goodness; for every plantation which Our Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted out." Rev. Robert Hunt was the first minister in Virginia, and before the erection of a church at Jamestown, the people prepared a place of worship by attaching a piece of sail-cloth to three or four trees as a protection from the sun, and for a pulpit a bar of wood was spiked to two trees. There met the first church organization of Virginia, and the first of English speaking people in America.

**16. The First Efforts to Establish a School in the United States.**—The first effort to establish a school of any character in the United States, was made at Jamestown in Virginia. The Virginia Company, composed, as it was, of men desiring the intellectual development of the colonists, ever urged the importance of education, and in 1619, it supplemented



the £1,500 collected, by a donation of 15,000 acres of land to aid the Indian Mission school at Henrico. But this was not the only effort in this direction. In 1621, the devoted Rev. Patrick Copland, chaplain of an East India ship, collected funds to aid in the establishment of a Free School in Charles City, Virginia, the said institution to be known as the East India School.

**17. From the Sea to the Mountains.**—For a number of years after the founding of Jamestown the settlements were confined to the valley of the James river, but at length the population increased until the homes of civilized men extended far into the interior, and this, too, despite the fierce warfare carried on by the Indians. In 1670, there were 40,000 English speaking people in Virginia, so that by that time thousands of homes dotted all the landscape from the sea to the mountains. These hardy pioneers had extended the domain of civilization even to the base of the Blue Ridge, but no one had dared to found a home beyond that rocky barrier. So with Virginia's sister colonies to the north and south. They had greatly increased in population and had extended settlements, but none of them west of the mountains. But "Westward the Star of Empire takes its way." West Virginia lay in its line of march and it is, in point of settlement, the oldest American State west of the Appalachian mountains, and no other commonwealth has a more interesting or instructive history than it.

## CHAPTER IV.

### EXPLORATION AND FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

From 1669 to 1735.

**1. Exploration of John Lederer.**—The first white man within the present limits of West Virginia was John Lederer. He was a German by birth and was an authorized explorer in the employment of Sir William Berkeley, a Colonial Governor of Virginia. Lederer made several journeys into the wilderness to the westward. On one of these, he crossed the Blue Ridge, in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, in what is now Jefferson county, West Virginia. From here he appears to have journeyed farther to the west over the mountains into what is now Hampshire county, and, probably, visited the valley of Cheat river. This exploration was made in 1669. A map of the same has been preserved on which is a delineation of the Potomac river, represented as being divided into two branches.

**2. The Discovery of the Ohio River.**—By a singular coincidence, at the same time that John Lederer was exploring the mountain region of West Virginia, a representative of another nation beyond the sea, saw the western part of the State, when descending the Ohio river. This was Robert Cavelier La Salle, one of the most eminent French explorers of the New